

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 - 51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A hand-held vacuum comprising:

a motor housing assembly with a housing, a battery, a motor, an impeller, a power switch, and a latch, the housing defining a handle aperture and a handle, the battery being received in the housing and electrically coupled to the power switch and the motor, the motor including an output member to which the impeller is coupled for rotation, the power switch including a switch member that is mounted on the handle, the latch being mounted on the housing in-line with and forwardly of the switch member; and

a dirt cup assembly with a dirt cup, an inlet and an elbow, the dirt cup having a circumferentially-extending wall that defines an open rear end and a tapered front surface, the open rear end being configured to receive therein a front portion of the housing, the inlet extending rearwardly through the tapered front surface into the dirt cup, the inlet being configured to direct air drawn there through into the dirt cup at the impeller, the elbow being coupled to an end of the inlet opposite the tapered front surface and being configured to direct air exiting the inlet in a direction both toward the circumferentially extending wall and rearwardly toward the impeller; and

a filter coupled to at least one of the dirt cup and the motor housing, the filter including a filter member and a structure into which the air drawn through the inlet is received before the air is passed through the filter member;

wherein the latch releasably secures the dirt cup to the housing and wherein the elbow is spaced axially forward of the structure.

53. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 52, wherein a ~~filter is disposed between the impeller and the elbow~~, the filter member is also being disposed in the dirt cup.

54. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 53, wherein the filter is mechanically coupled to the housing.

55. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 54, wherein the dirt cup has a substantially smooth interior surface.

56. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 52, wherein the dirt cup has a substantially smooth interior surface.

57. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 52, wherein the elbow is removably coupled to the inlet.

58. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 57, wherein the elbow includes an attachment portion and wherein one of the attachment portion and the inlet is received into the other one of the attachment portion and the inlet.

59. (Previously Presented) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 58, wherein the attachment portion and the inlet are frictionally engaged to one another.

60. (Currently Amended) The hand-held vacuum of Claim 52, wherein the elbow is configured to change a flow path of air exiting the inlet by an angle of less than 90°.

61. (Currently Amended) A hand-held vacuum comprising:
a motor housing assembly with a housing, a battery, a motor, an impeller, a power switch, and a latch, the housing defining a handle aperture and a handle, the battery being received in the housing and electrically coupled to the power switch and the motor, the motor including an output member to which the impeller is coupled for rotation, the power switch including a switch member that is mounted on the handle, the latch being mounted on the housing in-line with and forwardly of the switch member;

a dirt cup assembly with a dirt cup, an inlet and an elbow, the dirt cup having a circumferentially-extending wall that defines an open rear end and a tapered front surface, the open rear end being configured to receive therein a front portion of the housing, the inlet extending rearwardly through the tapered front surface into the dirt cup, the inlet being configured to direct air drawn there through into the dirt cup at the impeller, the elbow being coupled to an end of the inlet opposite the tapered front surface and being configured to direct air exiting the inlet in a direction both toward the circumferentially extending wall and rearwardly toward the impeller; and

a filter disposed between the impeller and the elbow, the filter also being disposed in the dirt cup and mechanically coupled to the housing, the filter including a filter member

and a structure into which the air drawn through the inlet is received before the air is passed through the filter member;

wherein the dirt cup has a substantially smooth interior surface;

wherein the elbow is spaced axially forward of the structure;

wherein the elbow is removably coupled to the inlet, wherein the elbow includes an attachment portion and wherein one of the attachment portion and the inlet is received into the other one of the attachment portion and the inlet to frictionally engage the elbow to the inlet; and

wherein the latch releasably secures the dirt cup to the housing.

62. (Currently Amended) A hand-held vacuum comprising:

a motor housing assembly with a housing, a battery, a motor, an impeller, a power switch, and a latch, the housing defining a handle aperture and a handle, the battery being received in the housing and electrically coupled to the power switch and the motor, the motor including an output member to which the impeller is coupled for rotation, the power switch including a switch member that is mounted on the handle, the latch being mounted on the housing in-line with and forwardly of the switch member,

a dirt cup assembly with a dirt cup, an inlet and an elbow, the dirt cup having a circumferentially-extending wall that defines an open rear end and a tapered front surface, the open rear end being configured to receive therein a front portion of the housing, the inlet extending rearwardly through the tapered front surface into the dirt cup, the inlet being configured to direct air drawn there through into the dirt cup at the impeller, the elbow being coupled to an end of the inlet opposite the tapered front surface and being

configured to direct air exiting the inlet in a direction both toward the circumferentially extending wall and rearwardly toward the impeller; and

a filter disposed between the impeller and the elbow, the filter also being disposed in the dirt cup and mechanically coupled to the housing, the filter including a filter member and a structure into which the air drawn through the inlet is received before the air is passed through the filter member;

wherein the elbow is spaced axially forward of the structure;

wherein the latch releasably secures the dirt cup to the housing; and

wherein the elbow is removably coupled to the inlet, wherein the elbow includes an attachment portion and wherein one of the attachment portion and the inlet is received into the other one of the attachment portion and the inlet to frictionally engage the elbow to the inlet, and wherein the elbow is configured to change a flow path of air exiting the inlet by an angle of less than 90°.